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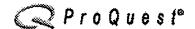
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What's new

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by Pawlowski, John E., Ph.D., University of Pennsylvania, 1993, 182 pages; AAT 9413888

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Abstract (Document Summary)

Hydroxysteroid dehydrogenases (HSDs) are essential enzymes for the biosynthesis and degradation of steroid hormones. Metabolites of the 3\$\alpha\$-HSD pathway are implicated in the development of prostatic hypertrophy and 3\$\alpha\$-hydroxy-metabolites of progesterone in the CNS have sedative hypnotic properties due to their interaction with the GABA receptor. The highest levels of 3\$\alpha\$-HSD expression are seen in rat liver and this enzyme has been well characterized. Rat liver 3\$\alpha\$-HSD has been purified in this laboratory and in addition to catalyzing the oxidoreduction of glucocorticoids, androgens and progestins, it also catalyzes the oxidation of trans-dihydrodiols of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons to reactive orthoquinones and thereby may represent a pathway of carcinogen activation. Hepatic 3\$\alpha\$-HSD is also involved in bile acid metabolism and can be potently inhibited by nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs.

The ability of 3\$\alpha\$-HSD to recognize these diverse substrates made elucidation of its structure a primary goal of the laboratory. The structural determination of 3\$\alpha\$-HSD involved affinity-labeling, x-ray crystallography, and the molecular biological approaches of cloning and site-directed mutagenesis. Prior to the beginning of this project, no HSDs had been cloned and little was known about the structural relationships between 3\$\alpha\$-HSD and other HSDs. Obtaining the sequence for rat liver 3\$\alpha\$-HSD demonstrated that it was not structurally similar with other HSDs including human placental 17\$\beta\$-HSD and rat liver 11\$\beta\$-HSD, except that it did contain a conserved Tyr-X-X-Lys pentapeptide seen in other HSDs. This tyrosine was subsequently found to be essential for catalysis in 11\$\beta\$-HSD. The greatest degree of sequence identity was seen between 3 \$\alpha\$-HSD and aldose reductase and other members of the aldo-keto reductase family. The x-ray crystal structure of human placental aldose reductase has recently been determined, and using it as a search model in conjunction with the deduced amino acid from the cDNA, the x-ray crystal structure of rat liver 3\$\alpha\$-HSD has been solved. The crystal structures of aldose reductase and 3\$\alpha\$-HSD suggested that Tyr-55 could act as the general acid of catalysis. Mutagenesis of Tyr-55 to Phe-55 abolished enzyme activity. In contrast, mutating the tyrosine residue which was conserved with the other HSDs had no effect on catalysis by 3\$\alpha\$-HSD. In conjunction with the x-ray crystallographic data, site-directed mutagenesis suggests that Tyr-55 may be the general acid of catalysis in 3\$\alpha\$-HSD.

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S14	14	glucocorticoid and tif2 and crystal	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT	OR	OFF	2005/09/12 14:29
S15	1072	fluticasone adj propionate	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT	OR	OFF	2005/09/12 14:29
S16	70	S15 and (glucocorticoid adj receptor)	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT	OR	OFF	2005/09/12 14:31
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S18	45	S16 and crystal	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT	OR	OFF	2005/09/13 09:34
S19	2541	nuclear adj receptor	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT	OR	OFF	2005/09/14 11:13
S20	198	S19 and (tif2 or (translation adj initiation adj factor))	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT	OR	OFF	2005/09/14 11:17
S21	1	S20 and fluticasone	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT	OR	OFF	2005/09/14 11:17
S22	2813	glucocorticoid adj receptor	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT	OR	OFF	2005/09/14 11:17
S23	114	S22 and (tif2 or (translation adj initiation adj factor))	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT	OR	OFF	2005/09/14 11:17
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S28	18	S27 and crystal	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT	OR	OFF	2005/09/15 10:32
S29	24	S27 and (crystal or structur\$)	US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT	OR	OFF	2005/09/15 10:32